

REMARKS

This Response is being submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on October 18, 2006. Claim 1 is pending in the patent application. Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 2-15 have been added. Additionally, a petition for a two-month extension of time has been submitted with this response. No new matter has been added by this response.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that they did not consider the references in the search report cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 22, 2005 because the references of the search report were not separately listed on the IDS. Applicant has submitted a copy of the search report identified in the IDS filed on February 22, 2005 with this response. The search report identifies three references: GB 660,432; GB 630,784; and EP 0258524, all of which were separately cited in the February 22nd IDS and considered by the Examiner. A copy of the February 22nd IDS is attached. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the IDS be withdrawn.

The Examiner states that the previously filed Declaration is defective because it does not identify the United Kingdom patent document from which this application claims priority. Applicant has attached a newly executed Declaration which identifies the previous applications including United Kingdom Patent No. 03039187. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the Declaration be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,177,016 to Holmgren (“*Holmgren*”). Applicant disagrees with and traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a fitting for a connection to an end of a tubular member where the fitting includes a collar, which is received over an outer surface of an end of the

tubular member. A separate externally threaded sleeve which has an outside diameter that is larger than an internal diameter of the tubular member is screwed into the tubular member to expand the tubular member and trap it between the collar and the sleeve, an outside surface of the sleeve and an internal bore of the collar being cylindrical and internal bore of the collar being smooth. The support for the amendments to claim 1 are provided in originally filed claims 15 and 16 and in the drawings.

Holmgren is directed to a hose coupling. Specifically, *Holmgren* discloses a fitting having an insert with a tapered outer surface and a collar that includes an internally threaded bore (see Figs. 2, 4). Specifically, *Holmgren* states that the socket 12 includes a tubular member having a bore 28 extending actually therethrough, a widening outer end portion 30 and a threaded mid-portion 31 (Col. 3, lines 17-25). *Holmgren* therefore does not disclose or suggest that the internal bore of the collar is smooth as in the claimed invention.

As described in Applicant's application, the smooth surface of the collar is positioned over the external surface of the hose before the insert is screwed into the hose. The action of screwing the insert into the hose forces the hose radially outwardly and uniformly expands the hose into contact with the collar and trap the hose between the collar and insert. This results in the seal being of considerable strength. Furthermore, the outside surface of the sleeve and internal bore of the collar of the claimed invention are cylindrical. *Holmgren* does not disclose or suggest such subject matter.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 and new claims 2-14 which depend from amended claim 1, are each patentably distinguished over *Holmgren* and in condition for allowance.

New claim 15 is directed to a method of connecting and fitting to an end of a tubular member, where the method includes fitting a collar with a cylindrical internal bore over a free end of the tubular member; screwing a threaded sleeve of the fitting, where the sleeve has a cylindrical outer surface with a diameter larger than an internal diameter of the tubular member. In the claimed invention, by forcing the hose unit outwardly into contact with the collar, the fitting forms a sleeve of considerable strength without overstressing the hose. *Holmgren* does not disclose or suggest such subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that new claim 15 is patentably distinguished over *Holmgren* and in condition for allowance.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is submitted with this response to cover a portion of the fees for the two-month extension of time. The Patent Office is authorized to deduct the remaining difference, which is \$330.00, and any other fees that are due in connection with this application, from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If any other withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (33025-400700) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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